



**MeiGray Authenticated Reports: Michael Jordan, Chicago Bulls, 1996-97 Red, MGS No. 160200**  
September 17, 2024

## **1. Summary of Jordan Jerseys, MGG History**

On September 15, 2022, the MeiGray Authenticated Photo-Matched red jersey that Michael Jordan wore in **Game 1 of the 1997-98 NBA Finals sold at Sotheby's for \$10.091 Million**. It was then the highest price ever paid for a game-worn piece of sports memorabilia. That famous relic, from the Chicago Bulls' legendary "Last Dance" season, was worn by Jordan in only one game. The Bulls in that season anticipated the incredible demand for MJ's gamers and had him wear a different jersey virtually every game.

MeiGray's history of authenticated submissions for the vast majority of Jordan's career, including the five previous NBA Championship seasons, tell an entirely different story.

Jordan played 13 NBA Seasons with the Chicago Bulls. Drafted in 1985, he made his NBA Debut for the 1984-85 NBA season, wearing No. 23. He wore No. 23 in each of his first nine NBA seasons. After sitting out the 1993-94 NBA season to pursue a Major League Baseball career, he returned to the NBA late in the 1994-95 season and wore No. 45 in 17 regular-season games and the NBA Playoffs. He switched back to No. 23 the following season and wore his iconic number throughout his final three NBA seasons.

Beginning with the Bulls' first NBA Championship season, 1990-91, through 1995-96, MeiGray Authenticated examined 41 jerseys purported to be worn by Jordan. **Not one was conclusively photo-matched.**

Conversely, MeiGray's history of examinations showed very few different examples of a Jordan game-worn jersey, both in white and red. The absence of incontrovertible evidence, the anecdotal evidence from former players who wore the jerseys, and equipment sources who traced the jerseys, has led MeiGray to surmise that Jordan wore extremely few jerseys throughout the first five years of the Bulls' Championship Era.

## **2. How Many Jerseys Did Jordan Wear?**

Photo-Matching, a staple of MeiGray Authenticated's industry-leading tools and standards, ensures absolute authenticity and creates an unparalleled protection of supreme value for the most important Game-Worn artifacts. However, Michael Jordan Game-Worn Jerseys are not all alike.

MeiGray Authenticated has received 42 submissions for jerseys supposedly worn by MJ during the 1997-98 NBA Season, the first season Nike produced jerseys for the Bulls. Of these 42, MeiGray Authenticated photo-matched and authenticated 25 MJ Game-Worn Jerseys, 20 of which were worn in only one game. Three were worn in two games, one was worn in 2 pre-season games and 1 regular-season game, and one was worn in 9 games over less than one month.

**In his 12 previous seasons combined, MeiGray Authenticated has photo-matched only four Michael Jordan Game-Worn Jerseys, despite the fact that 130 jerseys have been submitted since 1999.**



### **3. Detailed Report on Jordan, 1996-97, In Red. The Importance of Scarcity**

The 1996-97 NBA Season was the league's 50<sup>th</sup>, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season saw the league honor its 50 Greatest Players of All-Time. It saw the league create a unique Gold NBA Logo patch that appeared on its Game-Worn Jerseys that season. The Bulls went 69-13, tying the Los Angeles Lakers for the second-best regular-season record in NBA history. Jordan won the league's scoring title by averaging 29.6 points per game.

The Bulls breezed through the NBA Playoffs, winning 11 of 13 games, to win the Eastern Conference and reach the NBA Finals, where they defeated the Western Conference Champion Utah Jazz in six games to claim their 5<sup>th</sup> NBA Title in seven years, all during the Jordan Era.

Michael Jordan played all 82 regular-season games in 1996-97, wearing a red jersey 30 times. The season marked the last time Champion manufactured and produced gamers for the Chicago Bulls. MeiGray examined all 30 games and has identified **ONLY TWO different red game-worn jerseys**.

The first of the two conclusively game-worn red Jordan jerseys, which we will call Red Gamer A, was worn in 9 games from November 1, 1996 through November 30, 1996. MeiGray has not examined this jersey but has confidently identified it through photo examination. **The second, for which this report was generated, has been MeiGray Authenticated as MGS No. 160200.**

**MGS 160200 was worn in 20 games from Dec. 19, 1996 through April 16, 1997. It has been conclusively photo-matched to 17 of those 20 games over five months, a remarkably long period of time for a single game-worn jersey to remain in active use. It is the most extensively worn Michael Jordan Bulls Game-Worn Jersey ever submitted to MeiGray Authenticated, whose database includes MJ authenticated jerseys back to his rookie season in 1984-85.**

**Also, it is the only red jersey from one of the Bulls' first five NBA Championship seasons that has been authenticated and photo-matched by MeiGray Authenticated.**

Jordan wore either Jersey A or Jersey B in one other game, Dec. 8, 1996, but the lack of conclusive photos prevents MeiGray from conclusively determining which jersey. Jordan scored his 25,000<sup>th</sup> NBA point on Nov. 30, 1996 wearing Jersey A, leaving it likely that Jersey A was removed from rotation after that game.

The lack of quality media from four regular-season games in 1996-97 is the sole reason preventing MeiGray from proving Jordan wore MGS 160200 in 20 or 21 regular-season games.

Additionally, MeiGray Authenticated has in its database another 12 submissions of 1996-97 red Jordan jerseys that were declined, as not game worn.



### Michael Jordan 1996-97 Game Log Report, Red Regular Season

|    | Date       |   | Opp | Win/Loss | Minutes Played | Points | Notes        |
|----|------------|---|-----|----------|----------------|--------|--------------|
| 1  | 11/1/1996  | @ | BOS | W (+9)   | 43:27:00       | 30     | Jersey A     |
| 4  | 11/6/1996  | @ | MIA | W (+6)   | 39:35:00       | 50     | Jersey A     |
| 5  | 11/8/1996  | @ | DET | W (+18)  | 35:43:00       | 15     | Jersey A     |
| 11 | 11/20/1996 | @ | PHO | W (+14)  | 35:06:00       | 37     | Jersey A     |
| 12 | 11/21/1996 | @ | DEN | W (+18)  | 33:35:00       | 31     | Jersey A     |
| 13 | 11/23/1996 | @ | UTA | L (-5)   | 39:25:00       | 44     | Jersey A     |
| 14 | 11/25/1996 | @ | LAC | W (+4)   | 42:31:00       | 40     | Jersey A     |
| 15 | 11/29/1996 | @ | DAL | W (+19)  | 39:48:00       | 36     | Jersey A     |
| 16 | 11/30/1996 | @ | SAS | W(+9)    | 38:30:00       | 35     | Jersey A     |
| 20 | 12/8/1996  | @ | TOR | L (-8)   | 40:42:00       | 13     | Inconclusive |
| 25 | 12/19/1996 | @ | CHH | W (+21)  | 35:58:00       | 35     | Jersey B     |
| 29 | 12/26/1996 | @ | ATL | L (-5)   | 39:30:00       | 34     | Jersey B     |
| 37 | 1/15/1997  | @ | MIN | W (+10)  | 34:57:00       | 25     | Jersey B     |
| 39 | 1/19/1997  | @ | HOU | L (-16)  | 43:23:00       | 26     | Jersey B     |
| 41 | 1/23/1997  | @ | CLE | W (+16)  | 38:58:00       | 32     | Jersey B     |
| 43 | 1/28/1997  | @ | VAN | W (+15)  | 32:09:00       | 28     | Jersey B     |
| 45 | 1/31/1997  | @ | GSW | W (+23)  | 32:17:00       | 18     | Jersey B     |
| 46 | 2/2/1997   | @ | SEA | W (+7)   | 44:55:00       | 45     | Jersey B     |
| 47 | 2/4/1997   | @ | POR | W (+4)   | 41:12:00       | 36     | Jersey B     |
| 50 | 2/14/1997  | @ | ATL | W (+1)   | 45:22:00       | 30     | Jersey B     |
| 56 | 2/27/1997  | @ | CLE | L (-3)   | 43:08:00       | 23     | Jersey B     |
| 62 | 3/11/1997  | @ | BOS | W (+11)  | 43:15:00       | 32     | Jersey B     |
| 63 | 3/12/1997  | @ | PHI | W (+4)   | 37:04:00       | 23     | Jersey B     |
| 64 | 3/14/1997  | @ | NJN | L (-1)   | 38:51:00       | 36     | Jersey B     |
| 67 | 3/21/1997  | @ | IND | W (+19)  | 40:24:00       | 36     | Inconclusive |
| 70 | 3/27/1997  | @ | TOR | W (+13)  | 41:28:00       | 12     | Inconclusive |
| 73 | 4/3/1997   | @ | WSB | L (-8)   | 38:39:00       | 34     | Jersey B     |
| 75 | 4/6/1997   | @ | ORL | W (+16)  | 40:27:00       | 37     | Jersey B     |
| 78 | 4/10/1997  | @ | NYK | W (+2)   | 43:57:00       | 34     | Jersey B     |
| 81 | 4/16/1997  | @ | MIA | L (-10)  | 39:27:00       | 26     | Inconclusive |